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No. 340

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21 December 1983

WORLDWIDE REPORT

Epidemiology

No. 340

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BRIEFS

AIDS IN NSW--SYDNEY--More than 50 people in NSW are suspected of having A.I.D.S disease and the Health Department has launched a major investigation. The deadly disease, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, first discovered in the United States, kills 85 per cent of its victims. Dr Trevor King, chief medical officer of the State Health Department, said yesterday that the incidence of A.I.D.S. had increased since it was made a "notifiable disease." Testing of blood samples was continuing and it would be some time before they could confirm the extent of the disease in Australia. The department will hold a meeting of its advisory committee next Wednesday to discuss the high incidence of reported A.I.D.S. cases. Dr King said that all 50 cases in NSW involved either homosexuals or bisexualmen. He added: The cases reported in NSW show symptoms of the primary stages. "It will be some time before we can establish if the disease has progressed to the full-blown stages that we know as A.I.D.S." A man aged 30 died in a Melbourne hospital of A.I.D.S. on Saturday after being admitted three weeks ago. Two other positive cases, one in Melbourne and one in Sydney, are being treated. A fourth man died of it in July. [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Oct 83 p 4]

CSO: 5400/7512

CORRESPONDENTS REPORT INCREASE IN CHOLERA DEATHS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Seventyfive more persons died of cholera and nearly 300 were attacked by the disease in Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Brahmanbaria during past few weeks.

Reports reaching here from these areas say 11-upazilas and two thanas have been badly affected.

Forty more died in [word indistinct] upazilas and a thana under Nilphamari subdivision and adjacent Dinajpur district during past six days where 135 others were attacked by the disease over the period. With fresh deaths the death toll due to cholera in Nilphamari subdivision rose to 147.

Our Nilphamari correspondent says, 15 persons of four unions under Nilphamari thana, two persons at Jaldhaka upazila, two at Kishorganj upazila, 27 at Domar upazila, three at Dimla upazila, one at Saidput upazila under Nilphamari Sub-division and five at Kansama upazila and five at Debiganj upazila under Dinajpur district died of cholera during last six days.

On high official of Health Department said that the outbreak of the disease due to intake of poor quality foods. He also mentioned that serious food crisis continuing in the affected the areas for one and a half month. Treatment facilities in these areas are also inadequate, he added.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent adds over 35 persons die of diarrhoea and cholera an about 125 person were attacked by the diseases in Brahmanbaria thana including three upazila Akhaura, Nasirnagar and Sarail during last 3 weeks according to an un official estimate. The official source, however, put the death toll at 11.

The affected areas are Rajghar Natal, Khairalla, Charchartola and Dharma under Brahmanbaria thana. Mirapur Kuripaika, Kalikapur, Umedpur, Maniandha, Abdullapur, under Akhaura upazila. Chwapar unto under Nasirnagar upazilla uud Ranidia, Barpaika and Mainda under Sarail upazila.

CSO: 5400/7034

BRIEFS

CHANDPUR DIARRHEA DEATHS--CHANDPUR, Oct 15: Five persons died of diarrhoeal disease in erosion affected areas of Haimchar thana under Chandpur subdivision in last few days. It is learnt that acute scarcity of life saving. Drugs has been prevailing in the affected areas. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 17 Oct 83 p 2]

DIARRHEA IN MANIKGANJ--MANIKGANJ, Oct 22: 'Strong diarrhoea' has claimed four lives in three unions of Shivalaya upazila during the past four days. Another 150 persons have been attacked by the disease in the same areas. Of the dead, three were minor boys. The victims were: Ishaque Ali (4) of Amtala village under Ulail union, Afzal (3) and Al-Amin (5) of Zafarganj village in Teutha union, Mofizuddin (52) and his wife (45) of Kathadhara village in Simulia union. The Deputy Civil Surgeon's office sources in Manikganj confirmed four deaths by 'strong diarrhoea' in Shivalaya upazila. Local people said, a total of nine persons died and 55 others were attacked by strong diarrhoea in three upazilas under the subdivision. Of them four each were in Shivalaya upazila and Daula'pur upazila, and one in Singair upazila. The sub-divisional authorities have opened a control room at Manikganj for a planned vaccination drive to check further spread of the disease. At present 14 medical teams were inoculating people in and around the affected areas, the sources added. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES IN English 23 Oct 83 p 8]

MORE CHOLERA DEATHS--BUKOGANARUM Oct 23: seventeen more persons died of cholera and about one hundred were attacked by the disease in three upazilas and thana under Nilphamari subdivision during last four days. With this death toll due to cholera in the subdivision and adjacent area of Dinajpur district rose to 167. Reported that five persons died in two unions of Jaldhaka upazila, six in four unions of Domar upazila and six in four unions including Nilphamari municipality during last four days. It is gathered that six to eight cholera patients daily attend each hospital at Nilphamari Domar, Jaldhaka and the union health centres. Scarcity of saline preparation in the areas has made the situation worse. Meanwhile, the price of saline preparation has also increased and selling at Tk. 50 to 70 per bag. According to Domar Upazila Health Centre sources nine special treatment teams have been formed in the upazila combat the disease. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Oct 83 pp 1, 8]

STATISTICS ON CHOLERA, DIARRHEA--RANGPUR, Oct 25: One hundred and sixteen persons have died so far in the flood hit areas of the district and another 1315 persons have been suffering from diarrhoea, according to the unofficial sources. But according to the medical experts working in the area this death toll is as high as three hundred. It is learnt that 75 percent of cases are of cholera and others of water pollution and malnutrition. The district health authorities revealed that diarrhoeal diseases have broken out in epidemic form in the flood hit areas and it is spreading fast into fresh areas of the district. But the overall situation has not gone out of control as 105 medical teams are working round the clock. The teams includes among others the BMA and CDDRD medical teams. It is learnt that these teams are well equipped with supplies which includes cholera vaccines, oral salines, and water purifying tablets. But the medical teams are facing great difficulty in reaching the remote areas. Because there are only five country boats being hired by the health department to carry the members of the medical teams to the affected spots. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Oct 83 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 5400/7037

FOUR CASES OF CHAGAS DISEASE REPORTED

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Oct 83 p 8A

/Excerpts/ In the next few days a magazine specializing in medicine will publicize the fact that at least three more persons have been diagnosed as having Chagas disease.

A doctor connected with the research stated this yesterday. He added that these persons are receiving the appropriate treatment at one of the country's hospital centers.

Meanwhile, the parasitology department of the Ministry of Public Health reported an additional case of an 80 year old woman of Alajuelita who is also under medical treatment because she may be suffering from that disease.

Dr Luis Bonilla Salas, vice-minister of Public Health, said there is no threat to the public health because of the fact that some persons are suffering from this disease because it has always been present in the country although there are sporadic reports of persons contracting the disease.

Dr Bonilla believes this illness has a better chance of taking hold if the patient is undernourished or if he lives under poor hygienic conditions.

Several specialized agencies have been intensifying their research on Chagas disease, which attacks the heart cells, since 27 September when the disease was diagnosed in a 2½ year-old child at San Rafael de Alajuela Hospital. This was reported day before yesterday by Dr Walter Cartín Herrera and Dr Rebeca Perez Campos.

The insect which transmits the Trypanosoma cruzi parasite which causes this disease is a bedbug, the main characteristic of which is its orange color with black spots. It is found in firewood, in wooden walls and even in mattresses.

According to research, the insect can live at between 64 and 1,350 meters above sea level. It was confirmed that 100 percent of those insects found in the city of Alajuela carried the parasite.

The first two patients afflicted with Chagas disease in Costa Rica were found in 1941 in Nicoya Canton, Guanacaste. In recent years one case in which the patient died was reported at Perez Zeledon. The Statistical Department of the Ministry of Public Health said that in 1982, no person was hospitalized with this disease.

As to the propagation of the insect which is the carrier, especially in the central Alajuela Canton, the vice-minister of Public Health stated that the Ministry is authorized to initiate a campaign for the elimination of bedbugs if the situation requires it.

9204

CSO: 5400/2015

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS VACCINATION CAMPAIGN—The Gambia Government is to start a mass vaccination campaign against meningitis starting November 14, according to the Medical and Health Department. This campaign, according to the department, has been made possible through the provision of the cost of 800,000 doses of the vaccine by government and the contribution of D44,250 by parastatals and private commercial organisations in The Gambia. Ministry of Health sources say there have been meningitis outbreaks in The Gambia during the past two years and indications are that there will be one this year. The Minister of Health, Mr. M. C. Jallow, has therefore appealed to the people not to miss this campaign which gives three years protection against the disease. In this connection, Gambia officials said last week that Jallow intends to go to the provinces to brief the people on the purpose of the exercise so that they will cooperate with the campaign team. The minister has meanwhile gone to Dakar to hold consultations with his Senegalese counterparts on the possibility of carrying out a joint vaccination campaign against the disease. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 21 Nov 83 p 2709]

CSO: 5400/42

RECURRENCE OF VIRUS-BORNE DISEASES BAFFLING DOCTORS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Nov 83 p 7

[Text] Pune, Nov 6—The recurrence of some known virus-borne diseases and appearance of new ones have been baffling the medical fraternity in the country, reports PTI.

The National Institute of Virology here has been able to isolate 40 viruses, 25 of which including the Kyasanur forest disease virus, are new to science.

When the institute was set up in 1952 under the joint auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Rockefeller Foundation for specialized research and training in virology with particular emphasis on arbo-viruses commonly encountered in tropical countries, only two arbo-viruses were known in the country.

Dr (Mrs) K.M. Pavri, director of the institute, told a group of reporters from Delhi that since there was no cure or the cure for virus-borne diseases was very expensive, control measures assumed great importance.

Mystery Disease

She regretted that "when there is any outbreak of virus epidemics the institute is asked a little late to swing into action, perhaps because of delay on the part of the State Government concerned. She cited the case of a mysterious disease that took a heavy toll in Shahjahanpur (U.P.) recently and said that 90% of the slides collected were found to be malaria positive. But the institute could not say for certain that the deaths were due to malaria. It had not been able to get autopsy samples.

Talking about the recurrence of influenza, she said its virus changes in characteristics so much that there is a complete shift in its antigen structure after a certain period.

As a result, Dr Pavri said, the anti-body created in a previous epidemic was of no use subsequently.

She regretted that a vaccine developed by the institute 10 years ago for Kysanur forest disease or monkey disease in parts of Karnataka had not yet been produced. Besides, the insecticide doses prescribed by the institute for spraying in the affected areas had been diluted.

No Resources

The Centre wanted the State to go in for the manufacture of the KFD vaccine as the disease was confined to Karnataka but the State Government had been pleading constraint of resources. Private manufacturers did not find the proposition viable, she said.

The Karnataka State Health authorities told reporters in Bangalore that a project was coming up in Shimoga with the help of the ICMR for the manufacture of the KFG vaccine. They claimed that the delay had taken place because the vaccine's success rate was only 60%.

The State health authorities denied that the spraying dose had been diluted.

They said that the KFD, transmitted through tick bite, had spread to a new taluka this year. About 500 000 people in three districts were exposed to the disease. In all, 600 cases were reported last year and 1,500 this year. The disease had taken a toll of 139 lives this year compared to 72 last year.

The disease is so infectious that during the process of isolating the virus and preparing the vaccine nearly 100 workers of the Pune institute were infected. Dr Pavri said the KFD anti-body was found in Kutch-Saurashtra also, but there was no incidence of the disease.

CSO: 5400/7044

NEWSMEN TOLD 4 OF 10 CHILDREN POLIO VICTIMS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 6 Nov 83 p 12

[Text] Bombay, Nov. 5.—The widespread prevalence of polio among children in the three months-to-five years age group, says Dr A. K. Mukherjee, director, All-India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is borne out by the fact that four out of every 10 children are victims of polio, with millions of them living in the city's slums.

Most parents of polio-stricken children belong to the poor, under-nourished section of society and their response to the sufferings caused by the disease is naturally limited due to lack of understanding. The Government has made no serious effort to remove their ignorance.

Talking to a group of Delhi-based journalists on a visit to the institute, Dr Mukherjee drove home the point. Just outside the boundary walls of the institute, situated in the heart of the city where millions of rupees are squandered on horse racing, crippled children are born to ignorant mothers who have not been told of the benefits of the polio vaccine which can be had free or for a meagre sum of Rs 2.

Ninety thousand children have been vaccinated under the impact programme and the drive is to continue till 1985. But out of the 1,000-odd children who came to the institute last year, more than 40% were already stricken with polio.

The institute exists on a shoe-string budget. Long queues of handicapped children wait for three to four weeks to be operated on. Patients are discharged within three to four days after operation to make room for more in the institute's 35-bed hospital.

CSO: 5400/7043

EXPERT WRITES WARNING OF PLAGUE OUTBREAK

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Oct 83 p 5

[Text] Bombay, Oct 28 (UNI)--Plague can erupt in India, an expert warns. The sudden appearance of the disease recently in Rohru tehsil in Simla district claiming 18 lives is a warning signal, Dr D.D. Renapurkar, Assistant Director of Haffkine Institute here, writes in the latest issue of 'Science Age,' a publication of Nehru Science Centre.

He says a recent survey has showed evidence of a plague infection in rodents in southern States and some villages in Maharashtra.

Dr Renapurkar, who has been working on plague for the past two decades, quoted another study in Uttar Pradesh which showed prevalence of the disease in wild rodents. Field rats, which often invade the habitats of wild rats, contact the disease. They pass the germs to domestic rats which go to the fields in harvesting season, he explains.

The outbreak of the disease in Simla district could be due to house rodents mingling with field rats.

He says that plague may escape detection unless the outbreak is widespread and many physicians are probably unable to recognise the symptoms in individual cases.

Dr Renapurkar, who is a member of the Indian Council of Medical Research's expert group on plague, says the indiscriminate use of antibiotics makes it difficult to detect small-scale outbreaks.

He said an anti-plague vaccine prepared by his institute gives immunity for about six months. The disease is no more incurable and the world health organisation has recommended drugs for it, he points out.

CSO: 5400/7039

CALCUTTA OFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER MALARIA REPORTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] Reports of malaria cases in the city are worrying the Health Department officials of Calcutta Corporation. Reports have been received from the Chowringhee, Park Circus, Ballygunge, B.B. Ganguly Street, Chetla and Camac Street areas, besides other places.

A Calcutta Corporation spokesman said on Tuesday that on receipt of the communiques on the incidence issued by the Malaria Control Wing of the State Health Department, the civic body had already initiated anti-mosquito drives in the city divided in 21 zones. But knowledgeable sources alleged that larvicidal activity was being interrupted by the accumulation of water in the dug-up areas of the Metro Rail project extending from one end of the city to the other.

Civic sources admitted that in the last financial year about 6,000 people were afflicted with malaria. This year, more than 3,500 people have been affected by the disease till now, and it is feared that the number might increase.

According to civic sources, there are about 33,000 surface acres of stagnant water being used by mosquitos for breeding. Of this area Calcutta Corporation is directly responsible for only 12,000 surface acres. The responsibility of the other areas lies with the State Irrigation Department, Defence, Eastern and South Eastern, and mainly Metro Railway, the sources said.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the Calcutta Corporation authorities have urged the Metro Rail authorities to take up a project to pump out each week the accumulated water from its innumerable ditches, some underground, so that the mosquitoes could not breed.

CSO: 5400/7046

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS NEAR MIDNAPORE--Midnapore, Oct 29--Three persons have died of gastro-enteritis in the Ramnagar area of Contai sub-division during the past few days, official sources said here today. About 1,000 people in Ramnagar Blocks I and II, Bhaganpur and Egra block areas of the sub-division have been affected by the disease. A team of Health Department officials have left for the affected areas the sources added. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 30 Oct 83 p 3]

UTTAR PRADESH GASTROENTERITIS STATISTICS--Lucknow, Oct 29 (UNI)--As many as 471 people died of gastroenteritis in Uttar Pradesh from January to 8 October, according to an official release. In all there were 4,170 gastro-enteritis seizures. Eleven people succumbed to the disease in the first week of October, the release said. There were also 159 cholera seizures during the period. Three of them proved fatal. The State Government has launched a campaign to disinfect wells in the rural areas, along with inoculation against cholera for the prevention of gastroenteritis and jaundice. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Oct 83 p 4]

MALARIA IN UTTAR PRADESH--Lucknow, Nov 2--At least 23 people had died of chronic malaria in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh in the last week, according to Dr B.B. Mathur, the Health Director, reports PTI. Pilani and Pihani were the worst-hit development blocks in the district where most of the chronic malaria cases had been detected, Dr Mathur said yesterday. Saying that spot verification and pathological tests of those affected by the disease were being carried out, Dr Mathur said there was no mystery about the disease and it was only "chronic malaria." [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Nov 83 p 9]

MORE GASTROENTERITIS DEATHS--Midnapore, Nov 7--Fifteen people--12 in Contai and three in Tamluk sub-divisions--have died of gastro-enteritis since October 7, Dr H.M. Mandal, Chief Medical Officer of Health, said here today. The affected blocks include Ramnagar I and II, Bhagawanpore II, Egra II and Panakura II where about 150 people were affected with the disease, he added. Adequate steps had been taken so that it could not spread, the Chief Medical Officer claimed. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 8 Nov 83 p 9]

CEREBRAL MALARIA EPIDEMIC--Amritsar, Nov 6--Cerebral malaria has taken an epidemic form in the city, reports PTI. The district health authorities today warned the public against the disease. People have been advised to take necessary precautions. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Nov 83 p 1]

COMILLA CHOLERA DEATHS--Comilla, Oct 28--Cholera claimed 112 lives recently in 12 upazilas of the district while 1130 persons were attacked by the disease, according to a high official source. But unofficial reports said that the figure would be much higher than the official one. The worst hit upazila is Hajiganj where 48 persons died out of 466 attacked by the disease. In other upazilas namely Burichang--9 persons died of the disease out of 74 attacked, Barura--7 persons died out of 74 attacked, Chandpur--2 persons died out of 27 attacked, Laksam--14 persons died out of 120 attacked, Chowdagram--3 persons died out of 17 attacked, Brahmanbaria--8 persons died out of 62 attacked, Kachua--2 persons died out of 121 attacked, Nabinagar--4 persons died out of 54 attacked and Nasirnagar--2 persons died out of 11 attacked. A total of 180 medical teams are working in the affected areas, it is learnt. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Oct 83 p 2]

BRAHMANBARIA DIARRHEA DEATHS--Brahmanbaria, Oct 30--Official sources said 37 persons died of diarrhoea in 18 unions of four upazilas and one thana under Brahmanbaria sub-division during the last fortnight. However, unofficial sources said the death toll is 74 and more than 600 persons are attacked with the disease. The disease has broken out in an epidemic form in 66 villages of 18 unions of Brahmanbaria thana and four upazilas--Akhaura Sarail Nasirnagar and Nabinagar. The badly affected unions are Akhaura (South) and Akhaura (North) unions under Akhaura Upazila Chunta Noagan Pakshimul Aurail and Barail unions under Sarail upazila Gusipur Keishnanagar under Nabinagar upazila Araishida Pattan and Ramrail under Brahmanbaria thana and Chatralpar Balakor and Harindu union under Nasirnagar upazila. Of the total 74 deaths 28 died in Akhaura, 23 in Sarail, nine in Nabinagar, six in Brahmanbaria and eight in Nasirnagar upazila. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 31 Oct 83 p 8]

CHITTAGONG DYSENTERY DEATHS--Nov 2--Blood dysentery breaking out in epidemic form has so far claimed 35 lives at Kutubchari Tea Garden labour quarters under Patickchary upazila in last three months. The disease has also affected nearby Raktachari and Tekbaria areas. According to report reaching here the tea garden medical centre is incapable of meeting the threat of the disease. However, the adjacent Lelang Health Complex has been distributing some medicines among the helpless labourers. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Nov 83 pp 1, 8]

CHOLERA IN LALMONIRHAT--Lalmonirhat, Nov 2--Cholera has broken out in an epidemic form in different villages of Lalmonirhat thana and Patgram Upazila under this sub-division. The total number of lives claimed by cholera in the areas up till now stands at 60. Out of the total death 55 died of the disease at Lalmonirhat thana and five at Panbari, Jegotber, Bhanderdaha villages of Patgram Upazila. The preventive measures are quite insufficient, it is learnt. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Nov 83 p 2]

CHOLERA IN SAIDPUR--Saidpur, Nov 5--Cholera claimed 14 more lives in Saidpur municipal area in one week. The death toll now rises to 35 in a month. Cholera has broken out in Saidpur municipal area in an epidemic form. Scarcity of drinking water, lack of sanitation and impure food are the main causes of the epidemic. Saidpur Pourasava has miserably failed to take proper sanitation measures, it is alleged. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 83 p 1]

CHOLERA IN NOAKHALI--Luxmipur (Noakhali), Nov 6--Cholera has claimed at least 20 lives in the villages of Char Bepari and Char Romani Mohan under the Luxmipur upazila in last three days. The disease has broken out in epidemic form among the uprooted people who have taken refuge on the beri bandh of the two villages as their homesteads were eroded by the river Meghna. Already some hundreds of people are reported to have been attacked with the disease and their number is on the increase. According to the local Deputy Civil Surgeon, the outbreak of cholera in these areas is due to want of pure drinking water. A local chairman told this reporter that there was no tubewell in the cholera-affected areas. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Nov 83 p 1]

MORE CHOLERA DEATHS--Sirajganj, Nov 6--The death toll of cholera has increased to 42 including 18 more deaths in 14 villages of Sirajganj, Raigonj, Ullapara and Kazipur upzilas. An information gathered from the affected areas said that more than 200 persons were attacked with cholera. It is further learnt that diarrhoeal diseases have broken out throughout the subdivision in an epidemic form. Scarcity of pure drinking water and intake of impure foods are the main causes. Anti-cholera medicines like saline bags and medicine for gastro-intestinal disorders are being sold at much higher prices. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Nov 83 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 5400/7040

BRIEFS

DIPHTHERIA HITS WEST KALIMANTAN--Pontianak (JP)--Increasing incidences of diphtheria in this West Kalimantan provincial capital have already assumed an epidemic scale, according to health authorities. Dr Bakhtiar Thaha, provincial health chief told ANTARA last weekend that so far 16 children, mostly under five years of age, have contracted the disease. From April, until 14 October a total of 53 patients have been recorded. So far, only five children have died. Dr M. Yusuf Akhmad of Pontianak municipality said that a number of patients are also from other towns. A team of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) has already been dispatched to survey various places. The provincial health office has already prepared vaccinations for 8,000 children. Already 15,000 children, specifically infants and school children, have been given anti-diphtheria shots. [Text] [Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English 18 Oct 83 p 3 BK]

DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK--Jakarta, 11 Nov (AFP)--Diphtheria has killed a total of eight children during the past several months in Pontianak, capital of West Kalimantan, the MERDEKA (FREEDOM) daily reported today. Some 85 people contracted with the infectious disease are now undergoing treatments at the town's public hospital, Dr. Yusuf Achmad, who heads the Contagious Diseases Eradication Department of the Municipal Health Service, said. The paper said the World Health Organization (WHO) had taken an interest in the case, and a recent survey made by WHO expert Dr. Robert J. Kim Farley has referred to the diphtheria wave as an outbreak of extraordinary proportions. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 11 Nov 83 BK]

CSO: 5400/4358

BRIEFS

NO FUNDS FOR HEPATITIS IMMUNIZATION--HAIFA (Itim).--The Health Ministry is having difficulty finding the \$1 million needed to immunize hospital staff and patients who are exposed to infection by hepatitis "B" virus, director-general Prof. Baruch Modan told Itim yesterday. Immunization against the disease has recently been developed in the U.S. Hepatitis "B", which can destroy the liver, is transmitted via the blood, body excretions and perspiration. The current issue of Harefua describes an ongoing survey conducted at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem by Prof. Marcel Elyakim and Dr. Daniel Shoval. Their tentative conclusion indicates that the inoculation of workers with a high degree of exposure to the virus is vital. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 83 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4507

BRIEFS

INFLUENZA OUTBREAK--There is a serious outbreak of influenza in George's Plain and other areas of Westmoreland. According to reports, numerous citizens are affected by the epidemic and some are forced to use homemade remedies because they are turned away by the Savanna-la Mar Public Hospital. This correspondent was told that no doctor is at the hospital to administer medical help, and those citizens who are unable to afford to pay private doctors have to use homemade methods such as hot baths with a variety of herbs to alleviate their pains. [Text] [FLO41302 Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 29 Sep 83 p 3 FL]

CSO: 5400/2016

BRIEFS

MALARIA CASES--Sources in the Ministry of Health have asserted that although malaria was extirpated in Jordan in the early sixties, the danger that the disease will appear still exists, in view of the presence of anopheles mosquitoes transmitting the disease in Jordan, as well as the discovery of cases of malaria that have come from abroad. The sources added that the Anti-Malaria Section is still working to keep the country free of the disease through the early discovery and treatment of malaria cases coming from abroad, and the performance of search operations for anopheles mosquito larvae to eliminate them. The sources said that last year 233 cases of imported malaria were discovered, 19 from Pakistan, 131 from India, 15 from Saudi Arabia, one from Yemen, 60 from Oman, one from China, four from Bangladesh, one from Upper Volta and one from Nigeria. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 83 p 5]

INSTANCES OF CANCER--Statistics issued by the Ministry of Health on cancer cases discovered in the Ministry of Health laboratory in the period from 1956 to 1982 show that the number of cases came to 8,120, which were discovered in the Ministry of Health laboratory only. The statistics referred to the lack of any information on the numbers discovered outside this laboratory. In the statistics, it was stated that cancer of the digestive tract accounts for the highest percentage of cancer cases in Jordan, totalling 1,319 cases or 16.3 percent of the total, followed by skin cancer, cases of which constituted 15 percent, then lymph glands, 12.7 percent, followed by breast cancer, 10.7 percent. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 83 p 3]

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES--The number of deaths resulting from contagious diseases last year came to 12, four of which were a result of diphtheria, two a result of meningitis, one a result of measles and five a result of tetanus. [Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Oct 83 p 7]

CSO: 5400/4506

BRIEFS

CHOLERA, DENGUE IN SARAWAK--KOTA KINABALU, Sat.--Two cholera and three suspected dengue fever cases were detected in Sabah in the past week, the State Medical Department said today. The cholera victims were a nine-month old baby from Jalan Utara, Sandakan, and a two-year-old girl from Kampung Ujung Pasir, Labuan. [Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Oct 83 p 16]

MEASLES CASES RISE--JOHORE BARU, Wed.--The number of measles cases at the Sekolah Menengah Sains in Muar have increased to 27, State Deputy Director of Health Services, Dr K. Badsha said today. She said all the cases had been put in isolation at the school's sick bay. Two sick bays had been opened for the boys and one for the girls. Dr Badsha said there was no cause for alarm, as it was only ordinary measles and not German measles. [Penang THE STAR in English 20 Oct 83 p 5]

DENGUE DEATH AT KLANG--KLANG, Sat.--The dengue outbreak in Selangor has claimed its first life this year--a year-old boy died soon after admission to the University Hospital in Petaling Jaya on Oct. 6. Doctors said that Ong Yau Mae had been suffering from dengue fever. An epidemic was declared on Pulau Ketam after two islanders were found to be suffering from dengue on Oct. 6. Since then, two more cases have been reported, the latest involving a 14-year-old boy. Health inspectors are fogging homes and buildings on the island. Five dengue cases had also been reported at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia campus in Bangi between Oct. 1 and Oct. 14. [Penang THE STAR in English 23 Oct 83 p 2]

PENANG REPORTS DENGUE--Pulau Pinang, Sat.--Another suspected case of dengue was admitted to the Butterworth District Hospital yesterday, bringing the total number of such cases in the State so far this year to 55. The victim was a 20-year-old student from the industrial training institute hostel in Perai, a State Medical and Health Services Department spokesman said today. Of the total, 46 cases were dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) and the other dengue fever (DF). [Kuching SARAWAK TRIBUNE in English 23 Oct 83 p 4]

VD INCREASE IN KUCHING--Kuching, Sat.--"Vietnam Rose," one of the most feared sexually transmitted diseases (STD) after gonorrhoea and syphilis have been detected to be on the increase in the Kuching. It is getting worse in Bintulu where it was first detected. The disease, believed to be originating from Vietnam is known to be the hardest sexually transmitted diseases to be cured.

A spokesman of the Medical Department today said on the whole the venereal diseases had been on the increase in the State. Last year 4,611 cases of gonorrhoea were reported as compared to only 787 in 1978. Syphilis cases on the other hand soared from 94 in 1978 to 180 last year. The age group had been lowered from 20 to 15, the spokesman said. "The situation could be considered as serious and a cause for concern," he added. Meanwhile the Medical Department is now reactivating its medical scheme. The scheme is to sort out positive cases and to prevent them from spreading. The Medical Department today advised those suspected of contracting venereal diseases to seek medical treatment immediately. The department also appealed to private practitioners to co-operate fully with the department in compiling proper statistics of STD cases. [Kuching SARAWAK TRIBUNE in English 23 Oct 83 p 1]

DENGUE FEVER—Four dengue cases were reported in Kuching today, bringing the number of such cases in Sarawak so far this year to 413. A spokesman of the State Medical and Health Services Department says the victims, all from Sibu, have been admitted to the hospital. The number of confirmed cases so far this year is 126. [Text] [BK201546 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 18 Nov 83]

CONJUNCTIVITIS OUTBREAK—The Trengganu Medical and Health Services Department has advised the public on the outbreak of conjunctivitis in the state. The deputy medical director, Dr Haji Wan Mahmud Osman, says more than 500 people were reported to have contracted the disease last month and the number is increasing. He says the disease can spread very quickly if the public are not careful. He said those who have contracted the disease should seek treatment immediately and avoid going to public places. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 26 Nov 83 BK]

SARAWAK MALARIA CASES—There has been a slight drop of malaria cases in Sarawak this year. A total of 774 cases have been reported, compared to 958 cases last year. A spokesman for the medical department says most of the cases were found in the first, second, and third divisions. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Nov 83 BK]

DENGUE CASES—Three more dengue cases have been reported in Kuching, bringing the total number of cases in Sarawak this year to more than 400. A spokesman of the state medical and health services says the victims are from Sibu and include a 12-year old schoolboy as well as a 15-year old schoolgirl. [Text] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Nov 83 BK]

CHOLERA IN KUCHING—Kuching, Thurs:—Three cholera cases were reported here today bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the State so far this year to 19, including one death. The three, a three-year-old boy from Rumah Nyirai in Nanga Manua, a 12-year-old girl pupil of the Tatau Bazaar Government Primary School, and a 35-year-old worker of Hock Ping Construction in Ozo Garden, have been admitted to the Bintulu District Hospital. The total number of confirmed carriers in Sarawak so far this year is 57.—Bernama [Text] [Kuching THE BORNEO POST in English 11 Nov 83 p 1]

BRIEFS

CHOLERA IN MAPUTO--Some 4 months after the end of an epidemic which hit southern Angola in the first quarter of 1983, cases of cholera were again reported in various neighborhoods of the city of Maputo and especially in the central prison of Machava, an official source told NOTICIAS yesterday. An investigation made of the first people stricken proved that there was a close connection with districts in Gaza Province. The official source told NOTICIAS that "although the situation is sensitive, it is not critical," adding that cholera-prevention measures had been taken in various neighborhoods by mobile brigades. At the same time, the infirmary which operated 4 months ago in the central hospital was reopened to treat individuals stricken with the epidemic. However, the same source stressed that cholera-prevention measures will be successful "only with the help of the people" as experience has shown. The source attached to the Ministry of Health called for "vigilance in residential and work areas" and the "rigorous application of approved preventive measures," widely used in similar circumstances. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Oct 83 p 1] 9479

CHOLERA CHECKED--The cholera outbreak which has been affecting the city and province of Maputo has been checked as a result of the action of the health services. Dr Oscar Monteiro, director of the Center for Disease Prevention and Medical Investigations, said that only one person died from the disease this week. He said that people from the provinces of Maputo and Gaza must be regarded as potential carriers of the disease. Five people have so far died from the disease since it broke out. [Summary] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 25 Nov 83 MB]

CSO: 5400/36

BRIEFS

RUBELLA CASES INCREASING--Health Department predictions of an increase in rubella cases have come true. A local outbreak of about 50 cases has been reported in Dunedin. The disease has also been detected in three pregnant North Island women through antenatal tests, monitored by the National Health Institute. During the last year New Zealanders have been warned of a likely increase in rubella, after an increase of recorded cases in Britain. The department's assistant director of disease prevention, Dr John Clements, said other rubella cases could be occurring elsewhere in New Zealand but misdiagnosed as measles. "It appears that the type of rubella being experienced is very similar to that which occurred in 1980 when cases looked very much like measles," he said. The difference was important. Pregnant women who contracted rubella ran the risk of damaging their unborn child but that was not the case with measles. "No woman should enter pregnancy unprotected against rubella and this is especially important over the next few months when we know there will be more rubella about," Dr Clements said. Women of child-bearing age should have a blood test to check their susceptibility to rubella so that those unprotected could be immunised. Laboratory testing and immunisation were free and available from any general practitioner. [Christchurch THE PRESS in English 27 Oct 83 p 5]

CSO: 5400/4355

BRIEFS

HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION--Damaris Cortez, member of the projects directorate of MINSA [Ministry of Health], has announced that, with the completion of the construction projects of four new hospitals, the shortage of beds will be reduced by at least 699 units. This does not include the installation of beds in 21 small rural hospitals, likewise under construction. Final investments being made by the Revolutionary Government through MINSA for the construction of the above hospitals in Matagalpa, Rivas, Masaya and Bluefields will come to at least 457 million cordobas. Damaris said that the Matagalpa hospital will be in operation by the first quarter of 1984; the Rivas facility is expected to start up during the first half of November of this year; the Masaya is to be finished in December; and the Bluefields within the first 6 months of 1984. "The total area of the four hospitals is 27,600 square meters, and its financing has been arranged with contributions from the BID [Inter-American Development Bank] and the Revolutionary Government," Damaris said. "With the same financial arrangement, we are also completing 185 health stations which are already 80 percent finished," our informant stated. Most of the health stations will be located in rural areas traditionally overlooked in the past, and in some of them, such as La Rica, El Ayapal, La Colonia, La Tronca, Quilambe and others, efforts are being directed toward defense against attacks by counterrevolutionary units. [Text] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Oct 83 p 8] 8568

CSO: 5400/2011

HEPATITIS A ANTIGEN EXTRACTED, IDENTIFIED

Beijing JIEFANGJUN YIXUE ZAZHI [MEDICAL JOURNAL OF CHINESE PEOPLE'S
LIBERATION ARMY] in Chinese No 4, Aug 83 pp 265-268

[Article by Zhang Xitan [1728 5045 0982]: "Extraction and Identification of
Hepatitis A Antigen"]

[Summary] Crude and partially purified preparations of HAV antigen were recovered from stools of a child suffering from type A hepatitis. The identification of the HAV antigen was carried out with sera from known HA patients and from chimpanzees infected with HAV by means of rapid IEM, MCF and IAHA. No cross reaction was observed with IAHA. The buoyant density of HAV particles in CsCl density gradients was found to be in the range of 1.29 - 1.42 g/cm³. A major peak was at 1.34 g/cm³, and another two minor ones were detected at about 1.39 g/cm³ and 1.30 g/cm³.

9717

CSO: 5400/4103

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION, DANGERS DESCRIBED

Worsening of Health Situation

Katowice TRYBUNA ROBOTNICZA in Polish 13 Sep 83 p 3

[Interview with Dr Ryszard Brzozowski, chief health inspector, by Leon Burski; place and date not specified]

[Text] [Question] Dr Brzozowski, current observations seem to indicate a worsening of the health situation in the country. Is this borne out by the data at the disposal of the State Sanitary Inspectorate?

[Answer] If one considers this question in relation to the incidence of contagious diseases, that is, diseases which spread as a result of poor hygiene, the situation does not confirm such a view. In 1982-1983 we recorded fewer cases of typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, diarrhea in children under 12, dysentery, scabies and jaundice than in the preceding 3 years. Last year we had the lowest incidence of typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever in our country's history. As far as measles is concerned, in 1982 we had 21 cases per 100,000 people, whereas in Finland the rate was 113, in Yugoslavia 62, and in Hungary 37. But in some countries the rate is lower than ours; in the GDR, for example, there are only 13 cases per 100,000 people.

[Question] There is talk of a new rise in the incidence of jaundice.

[Answer] In 1977-79 an average of 65,000 people per year contracted jaundice. In the past 3 years this rate fell to 48,000 people, which is a marked improvement. But we are disturbed by a new increase in the number of illnesses that we have observed for the past year and a half. This year (data for 7 months) we have 4,000 cases more than last year, which was also not one of the best. It was characterized by an epidemic of viral spinal meningitis. We recorded 24,000 cases, mainly among children and adolescents. Often entire families were affected. Fortunately the illness was generally not severe. I would like to add here that difficulties in supplying soap and other cleaning agents had a number of negative effects. These supply problems have passed, but some people have retained bad habits.

[Question] Do you connect this with reported incidents of mass food poisoning?

Answer Indeed, we were disturbed by a certain increase in the occurrence of food poisoning at summer **vacation** colonies. But the general incidence of food poisoning for the first 7 months of this year is lower than for the same period last year. At that time 6,600 cases were reported, while this year we had 4,600. Frequently we observe a great deal of unconcern and disregard for the principles of hygiene. People do not attach importance to what and how they eat, to the storage of food and to the sanitary conditions in which it is prepared. Last year we sent to the judicial authorities 12,210 cases against individuals guilty of such infractions.

Question I see that you are referring to directors of communal dining facilities. But they are not only ones who sin against health; food producers do also.

Answer I agree. Last year we had to impose over 82,000 fines and issue over 4,500 injunctions to halt production....

Question What does the State Sanitary Inspectorate need in order to be able to counteract more effectively the worsening of the country's health situation?

Answer We are waiting for a new law on the State Sanitary Inspectorate, which, I hope, will take effect this year. May I remind you that we are operating on the basis of a 1954 decree that is largely outdated. The new law should make us more effective. But the key to improving the situation is the quality of domestic inspection and the responsibility of managers of economic enterprises. In 1982 we made about 1.8 million inspections and imposed 115,000 fines. In the first half of this year the number of fines increased by 43 percent. So we are not overlooking violations. But we cannot be in all workplaces at all times. The PIS **State Sanitary Inspectorate** staff of 20,000 is not large enough for that.

And there is one more condition: our society's standard of hygiene must improve. Sanitary conditions in the country, and thus public health, are dependent on this.

Threat of Tuberculosis

Warsaw SLUZBA ZDROWIA in Polish 18 Sep 83 p 3

Article by a

Text On 29 August the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare held a press conference on the epidemiological situation of tuberculosis in Poland in 1982.

In the prewar years, during the occupation and after the war, up to 35 percent of the population of our country was infected with the tuberculosis bacillus. In those countries where the percentage of the population infected with the TB bacillus is low, there are also fewer cases of tuberculosis. Poland is one of the countries with a high percentage of infected population. New cases are arising and will arise from this group.

In 1982 there was a reduction in the number of new cases. A total of 23,685 patients was recorded--402 fewer cases than in the previous year. Among the new cases the majority (95%) have pulmonary tuberculosis. Among the non-pulmonary forms of tuberculosis, spinal meningitis occupies a special place. Last year five cases of this disease were recorded in children under the age of 14, and one case among adolescents.

In 1982, residents of rural areas had a somewhat higher rate of tuberculosis than did residents of urban areas.

As far as geographical distribution is concerned, there are significant differences in the TB rate. The provinces of Slupsk, Zielona Gora, Poznan, Leszno and Olsztyn have the fewest TB patients, while Biala Podlaska, Bielsko, Zamosc, Sieradz and Ostroleda provinces have the most.

One criterion of the general epidemiological situation of tuberculosis is its occurrence among children. In 1982, 494 new cases were recorded, but this was 52 fewer than in the previous year. The number of cases among adolescents also dropped.

Despite the reduction in the basic epidemiological indices of tuberculosis in Poland--a reduction that has been observed for many years--the situation in this field is unsatisfactory when compared with other European countries. The TB rate in Poland is 6-10 times higher than in European countries with the best situation in this regard.

In view of all these facts, tuberculosis still represents a serious health problem requiring the constant attention and vigilance of the Public Health Service.

The "Program for Controlling Tuberculosis to the Year 1990," which was developed by the Tuberculosis Institute and approved by the minister of health and social welfare, sets forth the goals and tasks for the individual branches of the health care system. Progress in the fight against tuberculosis requires close cooperation between the antituberculosis department and the entire public health service, particularly the basic treatment centers. Their role in the fight against TB should increase from year to year. For this purpose, however, physicians must receive additional education regarding the problem of tuberculosis. The most important task for the basic treatment centers is to participate in all antituberculosis actions by administering BCG [antituberculosis] shots and x-ray examinations. The POZ [basic health care service] discovers over 60 percent of new cases every year.

Antibacillus treatment is of vital importance in fighting tuberculosis. We have at our disposal all the medicines necessary for this purpose. There is also a sufficient number of beds for treatment of TB patients. The results of treatment nationwide are not satisfactory. Many factors come into play here. What is most troublesome for the public health service is the fact that patients often break off treatment, since it lasts up to 10 months. If the TB patient also has a problem with alcohol abuse, it is difficult to

speak of an effective and quick cure. Treatment of TB patients by specialists from the public health service is likewise ineffective, because there are no sanctions whereby a patient could be forced to take medicines. Similarly, it is difficult to make people report for their periodic x-ray examinations.

Besides the many problems faced by the tuberculosis department of the public health service, there is a very serious lack of highly qualified personnel. Suffice it to say that during the past few years scarcely 30 or 40 physicians specializing in tuberculosis have joined us. One of the reasons for the lack of interest in this field is the low salary for work in difficult conditions.

Although there has been an improvement in detection and treatment of cases as compared with 1980, every effort must be made to detect tuberculosis even earlier, because it is still a dangerous disease.

Outbreak of Viral Hepatitis

Gdansk DZIENNIK BALTYCKI in Polish 13 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] In Gdansk Province this August no cases have been recorded that might lead to an outbreak of food poisoning and occupational diseases. However, there is still an unfavorable epidemiological situation as regards viral hepatitis. A total of 121 cases of this disease have been recorded. The number of people who suffered food poisoning has also increased. A total of 94 cases of food poisoning has been recorded, including 65 cases caused by consumption of pastries from a privately owned plant in Ruma.

In August health inspectors from the sanitation department inspected waterworks (199 sites), vacation and tourist centers (248 sites), service facilities and public health institutions, as well as 29 public laboratories. The inspections revealed a number of irregularities in the case of the waterworks: the possibility of unauthorized persons gaining access to the wells, and leaks in the casing of the wells.

Many cases were recorded of poor water quality in those parts of Gdansk where inspections were carried out, including areas from which the complaints of residents were received (Mysia St, Rybacka St and Amundsen St).

Many inspected service facilities and health service facilities are in need of repair and renovation of their buildings, as well as improvement of their sanitary conditions. Institutions, cooperatives and business enterprises must take an interest in this situation. They have received appropriate warnings and fines. Sanitary conditions are still unsatisfactory in the towns and countryside. A serious and widespread problem is the need for contact inspections of residences and public buildings for evidence of chemical contamination and negative effects on human health.

Discussion of AIDS Situation

Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 24 Sep 83 p 9

[Interview with Prof Witold Brzosko, head of the Department of Immunology at the Institute of Contagious and Parasitic Diseases at Warsaw Medical Academy, by Daniela Baszkiewicz; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] Exactly what is AIDS?

[Answer] Its name—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—indicates that we are dealing with a disappearance of the human immunological barrier, a loss of the immune system.

[Question] Due to bacteria, a virus?

[Answer] We don't know exactly. We assume it is a contagious factor, no doubt a virus. So far no diagnostic methods and tests have been developed for it. We only know the symptoms and can make assumptions. One thing about AIDS is certain: over 60 percent of those affected by this disease die.

[Question] What are the symptoms?

[Answer] The disease begins with sudden sweats and fevers with an unknown etiology, followed by weight loss, enlargement of the lymph nodes, various skin disorders and emaciation. It is often accompanied by a tumorous disease known as Kaposi's sarcoma.

[Question] Some people claim that AIDS is caused by a completely new virus that escaped from the laboratory of American geneticists.

[Answer] The escape of new viruses in the future is theoretically possible. Today, however, this version belongs in the realm of science fiction. AIDS, in my opinion, is caused by widespread viruses, those which "latch on" to the immune system.

[Question] Why do these viruses primarily attack homosexuals and people with a hedonistic life style?

[Answer] They simply attack people who are immunologically deficient. As a result of various dangers in civilization which may have a direct effect on his health, man loses his immunity. All of us are genetically programmed for immunity. When a person is born who has little immunity and who also "burns the candle at both ends" or lives in exceptionally difficult conditions, he may easily catch an infection. At any rate, he is more predisposed to this than someone who observes so-called "social hygiene."

[Question] AIDS, like other viral diseases that have become dangerous in recent years, such as genital herpes, first appeared in the United States. Why there? Was social hygiene in America worse than elsewhere?

Answer I do not consider the discovery of AIDS in the United States a matter of chance for two reasons. First, the superb organization of American medicine makes it possible to detect diseases much more efficiently. Second, Kaposi's sarcoma, for example, has been known to medicine for a long time, but excellent conditions for its dissemination arose in the United States because of the existence of communes there with a very free life style. It is these communes, which from the medical viewpoint are showpiece "experiments of nature," that constitute a perfect breeding-ground for the virus. The members of communes are young people, and Kaposi's sarcoma attacks young individuals in the prime of life.

Question Do diseases attacking the lymphatic system occur in Poland?

Answer Of course. I used to work on them. In Poland in the 1950's and 1960's we had almost epidemic outbreaks of illness due to a certain protozoan--*Pneumocystis carinii*. It caused serious, usually fatal pneumonia in children living in very difficult conditions. Such illnesses still occur among adults who have taken so-called immunosuppressive drugs after organ transplants; these drugs lower immunity and counteract rejection of the foreign organ by the recipient's organism.

Not everyone is aware that mumps, measles and chickenpox permanently impair the immune system. A total of 10 to 20 percent of the children attacked by these viral diseases may suffer impairments that can result in very serious illnesses in adulthood, such as multiple sclerosis, which makes cripples of young people. These children may also become the future patients in cardiological and oncological wards.

Question Somehow we have become used to childhood diseases.

Answer Not enough attention is given in Poland to immunology. Pediatricians--although I have met with commendable exceptions--generally do not seem to realize the consequences of diseases dangerous to the immune system. They do not inform mothers about the dangers.

Question That's understandable, since Polish physicians do not have any drugs for strengthening the immune system.

Answer There are such drugs. Moreover, if we're lucky, Polfa will soon begin producing a hormonal extract from thymus glands--TFX--which has been written about in the press. Our department has made a very thorough study of this preparation. The registration of TFX is a great benefit, since it will enable us to improve the immune system of thousands of people afflicted with various illnesses. But don't think TFX is a panacea. Immunoregulators do not cure all of the basic diseases, but by maintaining the immune system in proper condition they help the organism to fight illness.

Question Recently there has been a lot of controversy over a supposedly sensational immunoregulator--"Padma-28." The Department of Health has even issued reports about it which would lead one to believe that "Padma" is a failure.

Answer It's an excellent herbal preparation produced on the basis of a centuries-old Tibetan formula. It consists of 21 fairly common herbs, and the whole secret of its effectiveness lies in the proportion among them. The drug is produced by the Swiss firm of Mr K. Lutz--Padma AG. Today each tablet of it costs 10 cents. I have made many studies of "Padma," am treating patients with it, and can state as a physician who uses exclusively scientific methods that the therapeutic results are very good, particularly in children. Soon the owner of Padma is going to submit a proposal to the Drug Committee concerning registration of the preparation in Poland.

Question So there is hope that "Padma-28," which is sold for dollars, will be in our drug registry?

Answer I have no right to speak on behalf of the committee. I assume that the arguments in its favor will be convincing.

Question We will surely be reproached for advertising a drug that is completely unavailable in Poland, for getting people's hopes up, or even worse, for burdening the health department with annoying requests.

Answer Excuse me, we had a chance to stop "Padma" in Poland.

Question To stop it?

Answer Yes. I was told that Dr Piotr Badmajew, the descendant of a famous family of imperial court physicians, who like his father lived and practiced herbal medicine in Poland for many years, tried to sell the "Padma" formula here. It was his property. Unfortunately, the drug was not sold in Poland for zlotys.

Question It was sold for dollars.

Answer After leaving the country Dr Badajew sold the secret of "Padma" to Mr Lutz, who threw his entire fortune on the scale. In buying "Padma" he risked a great deal, but he simply believed Badajew. Later on, serious research confirmed the value of the drug. Today the Padma AG company even has its own scientific council made up of prominent physicians.

Question And what good will that do us? We don't have the money to make purchases in dollars.

Answer Our country is buying for dollars a huge amount of drugs that don't even compare with "Padma," so there's nothing to quarrel about. If our public health service paid more attention to the human immune system, it wouldn't be necessary to import such a large amount of drugs, particularly antibiotics, which reduce the efficiency of the immune system.

Question Newspaper stories about "Padma" and certain statements about TFX have advised the press to remain silent on this subject.

Answer The people who pooh-pooh "Padma" and TFX do not know either the research findings or the effects of these drugs. I suspect they have never laid eyes on either "Padma" or TFX. I repeat: both drugs are good immunoregulators with a wide range of applications. I verified this in the laboratory and on many patients, as well as on myself after I suffered a heart attack.

Question Let's return to AIDS. It has not reached us in its acute form. The department's information services have not taken any definite steps. What must we avoid in order not to contribute accidentally to the spread of AIDS?

Answer I regularly receive information, including the latest information from the National Institute of Health in the United States. This information, which is intended for blood banks, is both a warning to the banks and an order that they investigate the milieu more thoroughly and pay closer attention to blood donors who are homosexuals or bisexuals, to persons who are known for their very active sex lives, to drug addicts who inject themselves intravenously, to hemophiliacs and to recipients of blood transfusions. Since we do not know the exact cause of AIDS, any microbiologically suspicious blood can be a potential source of contamination. That is precisely why the NIH warns all blood banks and centers that transfuse blood, plasma and blood-derived products about the need for more frequent microbiological monitoring and for more careful selection of blood donors.

I assume that the Polish blood donation service has also been informed and prepared to some extent for a possible fight against AIDS and similar viral diseases. Experiences with infectious jaundice B have surely taught it something.

12277

CSO: 5400/3001

TYPHUS OUTBREAK CONFIRMED IN SABADELL

Barcelona AVUI in Catalan 18 Oct 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Sabadell, Valles Occidental--Seven residents of La Clota have so far been struck by typhus and hospitalized in the Sabadell children's clinic of the Child Jesus and Health. Yesterday one was admitted again, but one of the three who were under observation has been discharged.

Thus, the five cases that yesterday were thought to be sure, have become seven. One of them is still under observation. The councillor of health of the Town Council, Dr Josep M. Planas, complained yesterday of the existence of a district like that of La Clota, where sanitary conditions, hygiene and cleanliness are absolutely lacking.

In spite of the fact that all indications lead one to believe that the focus of the epidemic are the foundations of La Clota, the town council has limited itself to putting up some signs around the fountains saying that the water cannot be drunk, without shutting them down, and the people, especially the children, keep drinking there. According to the town council, shutting the fountains down would have done no good, as was shown in the year 1979, when a similar case occurred and the residents broke open the tanks.

For their part, the health promotion services of the Generalitat, according to Dr Garrido's statement, declared to AVUI that on Friday the mayor had been told that the population of the district needed to be supplied with drinking water and that a good garbage collection service needed to be organized immediately, when it was confirmed that two of the five fountains, at the very least, were contaminated. This was reported to the mayor. Dr Garrido is disturbed to know that, although on Saturday the fountains were supplying, the children that played there drank the water as if nothing were wrong.

The problem of the fountains of La Clota is difficult to solve. The present consistory inherited it and has seen no way of solving it except for a broad plan in which both the Generalitat, along with the Metropolitan Corporation, would study a way to give worthy housing to a group of people who have no possibility of improving their lot. The waters of the fountains are contaminated by the black wells from the same shacks and by the refuse that accumulates in the surroundings.

Two children from a gypsy family of the Sabadell district of La Clota have been hospitalized with symptoms of typhoid fever. The illness could be caused by the contaminated waters of two fountains, and the town council of Sabadell until now has shown serious negligence in not taking drastic steps for these fountains to be put out of use. It only placed some posters on which it said "Not for drinking," which a few hours later had already been removed, so that the Health Department of the Generalitat reported to the consistory that the problem was more serious than it appeared.

Gravity of Sabadell Typhus Cases Confirmed

The fact that even yesterday the fountains of the district of La Clota were flowing, may be considered a serious negligence of the Sabadell town council, especially if we take into account that last Friday the Health Department of the Generalitat, through its territorial services, informed the town council of the danger of the fountains. Indeed, as Dr Garrido, a member of these services, explained to AVUI, the Sabadell town council last Tuesday notified the Generalitat of the fact that there were two patients hospitalized in the Child Jesus Clinic with symptoms of typhoid fever. "Then," Dr Garrido explained, "I went to the clinic to visit patients and right after I went to the La Clota district. After making an investigation of the problem, I reported to the town council that the problem was more serious than it appeared. That is, two of the five fountains analyzed are contaminated and may have caused typhoid fever. We issued a report to the mayor that the population will at once have to be provided with drinking water and that at the same time a good garbage collection will have to be organized. This report was issued to him Friday morning."

This is why Dr Garrido was disturbed when that Saturday afternoon people from the district were photographed drinking calmly from the fountain. Although some signs had been put up saying the water was not fit to drink, the signs had already been pulled up and destroyed.

Dr Garrido, moreover, stated to us that the problem of the fountains of the La Clota district has practically no solution since they are underground and are easily contaminated with the residual waters and the dead wells of the district. At any rate, according to Dr Garrido, the fact that the water may become contaminated does not imply that it may be always so: "It may happen, for instance, that we make an analysis one day and it may not be contaminated, but within 24 hours it may suddenly become contaminated, or the reverse." The fact that children have been those suffering the greatest harm, and especially the children of a family so poor as the one which at the moment is most affected, also has its explanation. "Children have fewer defenses than adults, especially if they are poorly nourished. Moreover, many adults are now immunized against that disease because they have lived for a long time in the same place."

Subhuman Living Conditions in the La Clota District

Sabadell--Yesterday in the children's Child Jesus Clinic, another child with typhus symptoms was admitted while a short time earlier, one of the children hospitalized previously was discharged. Of the other three children who remain under observation, one has been diagnosed as having typhus. In the other clinic, La Salut, another sick child was admitted who was a member of the gypsy family that from the start has been the only one to have fallen ill with typhoid fever.

In the face of these data which the town council of Sabadell supplied through its press chief shortly before 3 p.m., the research of the health officer, Dr Josep M. Plans, to inform us of the situation, was absolutely necessary.

Dr Plans commented that "what must disappear are subhuman situations like that now prevailing in the district of La Clota, where there are people that live in conditions absolutely lacking in hygiene and health while suffering from serious undernourishment."

Those ill with typhoid fever, however, lay in beds of the Child Jesus and La Salut clinics. Those afflicted surely have drunk the water from the La Clota fountains. Dr Josep M. Plans answers our question: "The source of the illness appears to be the fountains, but since the fever's incubation period is from 8 to 10 days, we cannot state that the waters are the cause of the infection."

When we told him that the fountains are still flowing, the health officer of the town council of Sabadell made the following comment: "We placed the signs reading that the water was not fit for drinking. I recall a similar case now from 1979; we went to shut and wall in a fountain in the Can Rull district. Well now, the residents of the area came to destroy the work and opened the fountain again. So it is no wonder that they have torn down the signs in La Clota. Tomorrow we will put them up again."

United Action Needed

Dr Plans seems very affected by the problem, not so much by the serious state of the seven persons hospitalized in clinics, because as he reported in detail, "a well-treated typhus, like any infectious disease, can be cured by means of hospitalization and proper medical care in a few days," but because of what the people forced to live under such conditions suffer.

"Look," he adds, "I have dedicated many years to visiting these families who live in huts and are poorly nourished, and the solution for them is to remove them from La Clota, or wherever they may be, and give them decent housing. So that in this way they may lack many economic resources, a social recycling of all of them together, and some desire to cooperate on the part of all. Because it is a problem not only of Sabadell, but of the whole metropolitan area of Barcelona and of the largest city in Catalonia, but also of concern for one's neighbor."

Finally he proves to us that "this is an inherited situation. Because for many years La Clota has existed and it is the fruit of a period in which cheap manpower was important and it did not matter where it lived. Therefore my concern and that of the town council to which I belong is not to facilitate the proliferation of such shanty towns, if indeed the area can be called even that."

12448

CSO: 5400/2504

MANZANARES RIVER PERSISTS AS HEALTH HAZARD

Madrid YA in Spanish 1 Nov 83 p 15

/Article by Angel del Rio/

/Text/ At present the Manzanares River is a health hazard for the city. The levels of contamination in the water are reaching unprecedented heights as a result of the extreme drought as well as the constant dumping of pollutants. Work toward purifying this unregulated watercourse will not commence until the autumn of 1984. The decay-bearing waters are a serious risk to health, because many plants grown for human consumption are irrigated by these waters and receive directly their contaminating action.

The foamy waters of the river carry a veritable floating garbage dump: tires, dead animals, bags of garbage and even ruined furniture float slowly along the river's course, which is actually a kind of cemetery. Cans, boxes, plastic articles and an endless array of waste complete the grim picture of a river flowing in open view through the middle of the city, carrying enormous potential to create infection.

A few days ago the representative on the Madrid city council from the people's group, Enrique Villoria, called attention to the serious situation, which, particularly during the summer, especially afflicts the many thousands of residents living next to the Manzanares with intense clouds of mosquitoes and pestilential odors.

"It is not possible to let the river clean itself. Its present state affects many Madrid residents and requires a specific corrective plan. Pending completion of the Integral Sanitation Plan, there are a series of sources of pollution which could be avoided with adequate enforcement. In Madrid there is a Municipal Police for almost everything; this pollution should be controlled by official action. The river has to be confined within banks, dredged and purified."

The municipal Manzanares mosquito abatement campaigns last from May to September, but the reality of the past summer has shown that this is not enough. Clouds of insects were in evidence and the residents of the river districts were constantly being bitten.

As a prerequisite for correcting the pollution of the Manzanares it is necessary to engage in research on the riverbed, as well as to perform chemical and biological analyses on the accumulated sediment. Downstream from El Pardo to the river's mouth, the Manzanares contains no oxygen, which means that fish cannot survive in it.

The Sanitation Plan for the river waters calls for restocking the river with carp and tench, species which can adapt to the natural conditions. The municipal authorities insist that it is not utopian to foresee multi-colored fish in the Manzanares, and believe that this will be possible beginning next fall.

Although summer is over, it is necessary to point out that warnings were reiterated by the health authorities on the dangers posed by the Manzanares waters.

According to these authorities, to take a dip in the river downstream from El Pardo, which many people do habitually during summertime, is to run a grave risk and court infection by intestinal diseases, conjunctivitis and mycosis.

Besides the routine warnings, which are made year round, there is danger from consuming greens and vegetables watered by the Manzanares, because they can cause typhoid fever. There are many riverbank gardens producing vegetables which are sold in the markets of Madrid. In order to prevent disease it is necessary at all times of the year to wash these greens and vegetables with chlorinated water.

The city council member in charge of infrastructure for the Madrid city government, Jesus Espelosin, has declared that the Manzanares will be completely clean in autumn 1984. Until then, the river will continue to flow with decay and will constitute an actual open sewer. From any of the bridges over the river one observes a depressing scene: the water is often not only covered with a thick layer of foam, the result of detergents in the effluent, but also with organic material which is being discharged in an indiscriminate manner. The river is being jused as a drain for just anything at all.

A 'Rosy' Future For the River

The future plan for the Manzanares has been criticized by many as a Utopian vision, for it goes beyond the mere purification of the waters. As we have reported on previous occasions, once the Integral Sanitation Plan for Madrid is completed, an ambitious project will be initiated: the Manzanares River Park, the principal axis of which will be the river itself, bordered by 26 kilometers of green space.

This project will include the construction of an Olympic-size channel for boat races, from Cerro de la Plata, at the southern junction, to the Jarama junction. The canal will run parallel to the river and will be 2,300 meters long and 120 meters wide. Also planned is improvement for the orchards near the river, using a system which has been called "urban agriculture."

When the Manzanares waters run clean, they will be usable for agriculture without any kind of health risk.

CHLAMYDIA NOW MOST WIDESPREAD VENEREAL DISEASE IN COUNTRY

Stockholm SVENSKA DAG BLADET in Swedish 29 Oct 83 p 6

[Article by Inger Atterstam: "Chlamydia Bacteria Are Spread Within the Body: Venereal Disease Can Cause Inflammation In Abdominal Cavity"]

[Text] Chlamydia which currently is our worst venereal disease can cause greater health risks than has appeared so far. The fact is that the chlamydia bacteria can cause infections in parts of the body other than the sexual and reproductive organs.

"Completely new facts show that the chlamydia bacteria cause inflammations in the abdominal cavity that resemble appendicitis, infections of the surface of the liver causing severe pain and an illness called Reiter's syndrome," says associate professor Per-Anders Mardh, a microbiologist from Lund and one of the world's leading authorities on chlamydia.

The discoveries were presented in Stockholm Friday at a 2-day meeting on venereal disease, attended by physicians from all of Scandinavia.

"We suspect that 5-7 percent of so called appendicitis-cases really are due to chlamydia, he says. The fact is that these bacteria have the ability to spread through the body from the reproductive organs.

When the surface of the liver is infected the patient experiences severe pain similar to that caused by gallstones.

Connection Unknown

The Finnish researcher, Allan Lassus, from Helsinki showed on Friday that in nine out of ten patients with Reiter's syndrome, the disease was caused by chlamydia bacteria.

Reiter's syndrome is an infectious disease which attacks the conjunctiva of the eye, the urethra and the joints. It is often lingering and is dominated by pain in the joints. Furthermore the disease returns very easily after periods of recovery.

This connection between chlamydia and other infectious diseases has been unknown until now and because of this many patients have not been treated correctly. Chlamydia infections for instance demand treatment with antibiotics.

Most Widespread Venereal Disease

Otherwise the best known risk of chlamydia is inflammation of the Fallopian tubes and this, especially in young women, can lead to sterility.

The conclusion was made during the meeting that about 2,000 women per year in Sweden involuntarily become sterile because of the venereal diseases chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Statistics were presented that showed chlamydia to be the most widespread venereal disease, striking between 50,000 and 60,000 Swedes a year. Only 13,000 cases were reported, thus most of the cases are unknown.

Babies Infected

The other serious risk from chlamydia was also discussed: that of babies born to chlamydia infected mothers risking damage to eyes and lungs. It is tragic that most of these mothers don't know that they have chlamydia and the experts agreed that all pregnant women in Scandinavia ought to be tested in order to discover chlamydia infections.

Today--Saturday--the physicians will discuss the immune deficiency disease AIDS, since now a total of 21 cases of AIDS have been diagnosed in Scandinavia. It will be the first Scandinavian meeting on AIDS.

12339

CSO: 5400/2508

RELIEF FOR WHOOPING COUGH EPIDEMIC SEEN IN NEW VACCINE

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 4 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Inger Atterstam: "Vaccine Against Whooping Cough On the Way"]

[Text] Swedish researchers are hoping that, as soon as 1986, there will be available a new, less dangerous and at the same time more effective vaccine against whooping cough. Researchers at SBL [the State Biological Laboratory] have produced the new vaccine.

"We will test the vaccine on adults this spring," says the head of SBL, professor Lars-Olof Kallings. "Next we will gradually increase the tests to include more and more people and also children who are at the greatest risk.

"If the vaccine is shown to function as well for humans as it already has in tests on animals, we ought to be able to use it for mass-vaccinations as soon as 1986," says professor Kallings.

Severe Side Effects

If SBL's expectations are realized, it may be possible to prevent the next feared epidemic of whooping cough with the help of vaccination.

As the SVENSKA DAGBLADET reported in the Thursday paper, there is an epidemic of whooping cough right now that affects thousands of children.

Vaccination against whooping cough was stopped in 1979, because the vaccine caused severe side effects in certain children. Thus children in several age groups are without protection against the disease.

Epidemics of whooping cough occur with roughly four year intervals, so the next big outbreak is expected just 1986/1987.

International Cooperation

The problems with whooping cough and risks of vaccination are just now being discussed all over the world. During a recent meeting with WHO [World Health Organization] in Geneva, a worldwide cooperation was initiated in order to try to produce a vaccine with fewer side effects as soon as possible.

"One has to weigh the effect of the vaccine against the risk for side effects," says professor Kallings. Until now, unfortunately, the rule has been that the more effective the vaccine, the greater the risk for side effects.

Two Components

According to professor Kallings this concerns all vaccines available today. There was great hope for a new Japanese vaccine that is being tested on three million children in Japan:

"Unfortunately, it has been shown that this vaccine has fewer side effects, but at the same time it is less effective," says Lars-Olof Kallings.

The Swedish vaccine, however, is different from those in existence until now, for it contains two components. Partly the bacterium itself which causes whooping cough, partly the toxin produced by the bacterium which is suspected of being responsible for the long duration of the disease. Through a special process the toxin has been "de-toxified" and, thus, can be given in relatively high doses without risk to the patient.

In this way the vaccinated person can form protective antibodies both against the bacterium itself and its toxic products.

12339

CSO: 5400/2508

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

NEW AIDS DEATH REPORTED--Another case of the serious disease AIDS has been ascertained in Sweden. The man who has contracted the disease has been admitted to a hospital in Stockholm for testing and treatment. He is the fourth Swede so far who has been diagnosed with certainty as having AIDS, two of these people died in August of this year. About 100 physicians and researchers from 22 countries will meet at Århus next Wednesday to discuss for 3 days the dreaded disease of AIDS and the possibilities of finding preventive measures. Physicians from all of the Nordic countries, most countries in Western Europe, the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, Poland, and Czechoslovakia will be attending the meeting at Århus. The meeting has been arranged by physicians of the World Health Organization's office at Copenhagen as well as by physicians of the university hospital at Århus. [Text]
[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 19 Oct 83 p 6] 7262

CSO: 5400/2505

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

ZANZIBAR ANTI-MALARIA CAMPAIGN--The anti-malaria campaign in Zanzibar has succeeded following the reduction of high incidence of clinical malaria in Zanzibar town by 50 per cent, the Malaria Control Officer for Zanzibar, Ndugu Felix Fernandes, has said. [Excerpt] [Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 28 Nov 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/41

LIVER FLUKE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Funds Allocated

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 22 Sep 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] A Mahidon **[University]** doctor recommends putting a plan to combat liver flukes into the national public health plan in order to find a way to eradicate this terrible disease. He says that at present in the northeast a total of 6 million young men and women are afflicted with this disease, which is a great economic loss to the nation. Go-betweens have demanded 1,000 baht each time from people coming for care. The Deputy Minister of Public Health is prepared to allocate at least 100 million baht to combat this disease.

Associate Professor Dr Sansiri Soman, Dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine of Mahidon University, told SIAM RAT that at present four to six million northeasterners are afflicted with liver flukes, which is a great economic loss. He has therefore recommended that the minister of public health put a plan to combat liver flukes into the national public health plan, in order to request a budget to fund the fight to eradicate this terrible disease.

The reason it was necessary to recommend that the combat of this terrible disease be included in the national health plan, Dr Sansiri revealed, is that the Department of Tropical Medicine researched and experimented on the treatment of liver flukes in the irrigation village Nongwai, Khonkaen province two years ago and found that even if the disease is cured with drugs, it can come back if there is no improvement in the hygiene of the people with regard to food.

That is, liver flukes arise from the people's liking for foods like fish "koi," in which raw fish are chopped up with lemon and eaten with sticky rice. When cysts on the fish, which are the liver flukes, work their way into the gall bladder and the liver, the vessels containing the bile become clogged and the disease begins.

Associate Professor Sansiri said that for this reason he performed an experiment on villagers with this disease in two villages. In one village, people were treated with drugs, while the other village was controlled in terms of

improvement of food hygiene. It appears that the village that received care in terms of hygiene did not get the disease again, unlike the village that only received treatment with drugs, where the disease was contracted again because of unhealthy foods, i.e., raw foods.

Associate Professor Dr Sansiri said that liver flukes are a great economic loss to the nation. That is, the people with this disease have symptoms of yellowing, bloatedness, gas, and lack of strength to work; a majority of them are young men and women. Therefore the government should take a great interest in this matter and should try, along with the Ministry of Public Health, to eradicate this terrible disease completely through treatment with drugs and by establishing hygiene with regard to food. Although the drugs used to treat the disease are very expensive, at 300 baht per dose, when the economic benefits and benefits to the people's well-being are considered, it is well worth it, since the drug can be used just once a year and is able to effect a cure.

Dr Sansiri also revealed that currently at the Department of Tropical Medicine of Mahidon Hospital over 100 villagers from the northeast with this disease share a bus to come for treatment each day, which costs these people a lot of time and expense. "I think the Ministry of Public Health should take charge of this and go treat the villagers on location, because the trip to Bangkok for treatment requires money and wastes time," said Associate Professor Dr Sansiri.

Dr Manatsawi Unhanan, deputy of the Ministry of Public Health, revealed that in this matter he agreed that the drug ought to be distributed at the district level, because he has recently received reports that the go-betweeners who bring the villagers for treatment from the villages sometimes demand a fee of 1,000 baht each time.

On this matter, Mr Thoetphong Chaiyanan, Assistant Minister of Public Health, said that the ministry is now looking for a way to help administer treatment by setting up a special task force with representatives from the office of the deputy of the Department of Infectious Disease Control that will get together to study how to eradicate the disease. In order to solve the problem of liver flukes, it is important to improve the people's food hygiene. The ministry will try to use publicity to make people aware of this in order to solve this problem.

In any case, Mr Thoetphong said that the ministry will have to request a special budget, which he estimates at no less than 100 million baht, from the government in order to treat people, and it will have to ask for aid from the World Health Organization and the Third World Funds Division.

Personal, Government Costs

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 1 Oct 83 p 2

Text Northerners are warned not to be tricked by the name "Tropical Tours" for treatment of liver flukes. They will waste more money than

necessary. Hospitals cannot take them all. It is claimed that many are afflicted with this disease in irrigation regions. The State must spend almost 700 million baht per year.

Dr Akhom Sarasuchat, chairman of the Commission on Public Health and Environmental Issues, and Miss Phuangphet Sithong announced yesterday, 30 September, that the commission meeting discussed the problem of the many people of the northeast afflicted with liver flukes, and invited Dr Sansiri Somani, dean of the Faculty of Tropical Medicine of Mahidon University to come inform them, because there is an interest group that arranges for patients to come for treatment at the Department of Tropical Medicine called "Tropical Tours," averaging 200 to 300 people per day and charging 800 to 1,000 baht round-trip to the hospital, not including treatment. Hospitals in the provinces have the drugs to treat them, but once cured they get the disease again.

Dr Akhom disclosed that Dr Sansiri has revealed research results that found that 80 percent of the people in the northeast have had this disease, reaching 90 percent in some villages. Altogether 2.8 million people in the country have the disease. If a person goes to the hospital 5 times to treat it, they will spend nearly 392 baht plus 280 million baht on hospital treatment per year, or 672 million baht altogether.

"The research at the Ubonrat Dam, Khonkaen province shows that in many good irrigation areas there is increased incidence of liver flukes because in good irrigation areas there are a large number of fish. The fish carrying this disease are those similar to carp daphian, such as "khaomon" fish, "khaoma" fish, "sut" fish, and "soi" necklace fish. The flukes occupy enclosed sacs of water in the meat of the fish. When people eat "som" fish or uncooked "koi" fish, the water sacs break and the flukes are released and reside in the gall bladder, causing inflammation, tiredness, inability to work well, and yellowing of the body and eyes or what is called jaundice. When mature organisms mix in the body, eggs are released. Then they are released into the water in the feces, consumed by shellfish, which are eaten by fish, and then they return to live in fish again. Therefore this disease becomes a cycle," said Dr Akhom.

At the same time Miss Phuantpet said she wanted to warn villagers not to travel to receive treatment in Bangkok because it costs more than necessary, since the disease can be treated in the other provinces.

9937

CSO: 5400/4352

CHOLERA VACCINATION CHECKS TO BE SCRAPPED IN JANUARY

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 15 Nov 83 p 1

[Excerpt]

THE Government has lifted restrictions on cholera vaccination certificates from international travellers with effect from next January. Ministry of Health permanent secretary Dr Joseph Kasonde, announced in Kabwe yesterday.

Dr Kasonde, who was addressing a planning conference for provincial medical officers and other senior medical staff at the President's Citizenship College for the Fourth National Development Plan, said the move would bring Zambia in line with other member countries of the World Health Organisation.

He told the provincial medical officers drawn from all parts of Zambia that the easing of cholera restrictions followed the successful fight against the killer disease in Zambia, particularly in Northern and Luapula provinces.

Dr Kasonde extolled the medical staff for their outstanding performance during the past year, especially in the field of disease prevention and control.

He said the medical staff excelled in the immunisation process from the previous figure of 45 to 55 per cent.

"A particular cause for satisfaction was your successful fight against cholera in Luapula and Northern provinces which was so good that we are now in a position where we can begin to ease some of the restrictions which became necessary four years ago.

"I have now decided that with effect from January cholera vaccination certificates will not be demanded of international travellers to Zambia. This move will ease the inconvenience that some of our visitors have experienced. I congratulate you on a job well done."

But Dr Kasonde acknowledged relative failure by the ministry to eradicate or prevent measles and tuberculosis which had been compounded by the increasing number of malnourished children and malaria had continued to take its toll. He said these were areas which needed urgent attention.

BRIEFS

'UNPRECEDENTED' PELLAGRA OUTBREAK--HARARE--Pellagra--a disease resulting from a lack of vitamin B--has broken out in unprecedented proportions in Zimbabwe because of the drought still gripping the country. A spokesman for the Food and Nutrition Association of Zimbabwe said yesterday the drought had meant thousands of people were dependent almost solely on maize and received no foods containing vitamin B. Pellagra's symptoms are severe skin rashes and sometimes mental disturbances. Fanaz, which has started an "adopt a family" scheme to alleviate suffering in the drought-stricken areas, said it was worried that the difficulties of the present planting season would worsen the already poor state of most people in the country's communal areas. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 16 Nov 83 p 12]

PELLAGRA RIFE IN DROUGHT-HIT AREAS--MANY Zimbabweans have been severely affected by pellagra--a vitamin B deficiency resulting in severe skin rashes and sometimes mental disturbances--because of the drought, the Food and Nutrition Association of Zimbabwe, said yesterday. The deficiency is usually prevented by eating foods containing vitamin B but because of the widespread drought and with many people dependent solely on a maize diet the country was witnessing "a lot more cases of pellagra than we normally see". "Pellagra has reached unprecedented proportions in Zimbabwe and that is most disturbing," Fanaz said. Two months ago the association started an adopt-a-family scheme aimed at preventing rural families from suffering serious health problems resulting from drought, particularly between November and February. The basic diet that Fanaz has worked out comprises maize meal, beans and cooking oil. Fanaz said there was a need to include beans in the rations of families in the rural areas because their exclusion was probably the reason for an increase in Pellagra. "If they (rural families) get a combination of maize and beans, they are not likely to suffer from the health problems and malnutrition. But in most cases the people are only getting maize...." The organisation acknowledges that it might be difficult to get beans as there are not sufficient supplies at the moment. Fanaz is worried that the figures of the planting season will further worsen the health status of most people in the rural areas without a proper basic diet. [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 15 Nov 83 p 1]

BRIEFS

CATTLE DISEASES REPORTED--BHAIRAB, Oct. 23: Various kinds of cattle diseases have broken out in the different parts of Bhairab Upazila. A few days ago one cattle head died of cattle Diptheria in the Aganagar union of this upazila. Another cattle head died of cattle diarrhoea recently in the village Omanathpur, 3 miles off Bhairab town. Besides, foot and mouth disease has also broken out in an epidemic form almost all over the upazila. When contacted the local veterinary physician told a press reporter that foot and mouth disease of cattle was highly contagious and cattleheads generally do not die of this disease if proper treatment is taken in time. But if a cattle head is attacked with this virus disease it takes long time to recover and the cattle is crippled. In this connection, it is mentionable here that every year cattle disease breaks out in this upazila taking a heavy toll of cattle heads. But no satisfactory measures are taken to prevent it before hand by any quarters. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Oct 83 p 2]

CSO: 5400/7038

LEBANON

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE DANGER--A foot and mouth disease plague has spread in southern Lebanon, according to checks by Israeli veterinary services. In view of the danger that the plague will spread through the Good Fence, the veterinary services issued an order prohibiting the shipment of all kinds of cattle throughout the country without written permission. Farmers in Israel were also asked to inform the veterinary services of any case of suspected contraction of this disease.
[Text] [TAL72056 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 5 TA]

CSO: 5400/4505

BRIEFS

TUBERCULOSIS AFFECTS CATTLE--Approximately 5,000 cattle of the Macuse Agricultural Company in Zambezia have died since 1982; a tuberculosis outbreak has affected that region for 4 years. Since the company is now facing a shortage of barbed wire to isolate the contaminated cattle and other means to eliminate this epidemic, the former Boror Company has had to slaughter six cattle a week, as well as carry out the third phase of the veterinary treatment of cattle. NOTICIAS learned from an employee of the Macuse Agricultural Company that in 1982 there were more than 16,000 head of cattle and today only 11,000 remain. As we were informed, the third phase of the treatment of this epidemic is now going on; it consists of adequately monitoring the current situation after the diseased cattle are given various veterinary treatments. Nevertheless, problems in the firm and on the national market persist because of the great barbed wire shortage. Presently, the diseased and healthy cattle are not separated; the company cannot control the epidemic with its resources and so it continues, we were told. "Countless contacts were made to obtain barbed wire, but not very successfully. We are endeavoring to resolve the problem," an employee of the firm told us. Tuberculosis, which has affected the Macuse region for 4 years, has spread in alarming proportions. Thus, the Macuse Agricultural Company, the former Boror Company, must slaughter six cattle a week for distribution by the workers. The number of cattle which have died since last year could increase if some of the most important measures to eliminate the plague are not implemented. This is the general opinion of the employees of the Macuse Agricultural Company. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 8 Oct 83 p 2] 9479

CSO: 5400/22

DISTEMPER SPREADS ON NORTH ISLAND

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 11 Nov 83 Section 2, p 5

[Text] The distemper disease which has spread among dogs through much of the top half of the North Island is an even greater danger to fitches or ferrets.

Most of the country's rapidly growing numbers of fitch farmers are thought to be aware of the danger and should have had their animals vaccinated.

But a Canterbury fitch breeder has lost 10 per cent of his animals through an outbreak of distemper, even though the animals had been vaccinated with a canine distemper virus.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries animal health laboratory at Lincoln has warned that fitches should be vaccinated with an approved modified live virus vaccine which is available.

Certain Death

A veterinary officer at the laboratory, Mr Brian Cox, said that while distemper was often fatal in dogs, it was regarded as certain death for fitches.

He said the origin of the Canterbury outbreak was a mystery.

No dogs in the area had yet been reported with the disease, although it was likely to spread from the North Island.

Inquiries yesterday revealed no problems yet on North Island fitch farms.

The New Zealand Fitch Breeders' Association now has 110 paid-up members and there are thought to be about 50,000 fitches being bred-up for fur production in the country.

Mr Cox said the canine distemper virus vaccine used on the Canterbury farm was a "killed" vaccine, one in which the virus was dead, but still triggered the development of antibodies in the animal to resist the disease.

Recommendation

However, a qualified veterinarian speaking for the breeders' association in Auckland said he did not think such dead vaccines were being used now for canine distemper.

He recommended that the vaccine specifically approved for fitches be used. There were other modified live virus vaccines available for dogs, he said.

The problem with using them in fitches appeared to be a question of dosage, with a fitch needing about one-sixth of the dose for dogs.

CSO: 5400/4360

CATTLE REPORTEDLY DYING DAILY OF ECF, TRYPANOSOMIASIS

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 21 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Musa Lupatu]

[Text]

LARGE numbers of cattle are reportedly dying of East Coast Fever (ECF) and trypanosomiasis each day apparently for lack of chemicals and drugs.

Morogoro, Arusha and Dodoma as well as Mawza district in Shinyanga region are the hardest hit. Arusha is reported to be losing about 100 head of cattle a month.

Officials of the Ministry of Livestock Development as well as Morogoro and Arusha Region officials contacted by telephone yesterday confirmed the death. Efforts to get Dodoma and Shinyanga officials were not successful. No figures were made available by officials in Morogoro region.

The Morogoro Regional Livestock Development Officer (RLDO), Ndugu J. Ngwela could only confirm the death saying the situation was not alarming.

The Arusha RLDO, Dr G

G. Hatibu said the 100 death figure was a conservative one as it was not possible to obtain figures from other remote villages. He said however that the deaths were a result of the two killer diseases as well as drought.

Both officials were optimistic however that the diseases would be controlled following the arrival of chemicals in the region.

Ndugu Ngwela said the region has received 10,000 doses of Samurin, Berenil and Novidium drugs for curing trypanosomiasis. He also said that the region had received chemicals for cattle dips, but could not give amount received and reports requirements.

He said that the chemicals and drugs were not enough.

Dr. Hatibu said as for cattle dips, they had received 100 drums of acaricides last month, 100 others three days ago and were expecting a similar consignment next month. He could not give figures regarding trypanosomiasis drugs.

The Minister for Livestock Development, Ndugu Herman Kirigini told the National Assembly last month that the country would only import 4,000 drums of acaricides which is half the country's annual requirements, because of foreign exchange shortage.

He had said that 2,500 drums of acaricide-toxaphene 75 per cent was expected this month. It was not immediately known yesterday whether the chemicals have arrived, but highly placed sources in the ministry said that chemicals and drugs were so little as to call them "out of stock."

About two weeks ago, four peasants from Kilosa district called at the Daily News complaining that their efforts to obtain drugs in Kilosa and Morogoro have failed. They had come to seek the assistance of the ministry, but it is understood they could not obtain the drugs in the city also.

ECF, a tick-borne disease and trypanosomiasis, an animal sleeping sickness are said to be the great scourge of peasants in the country.

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

TRYPANOSOMIASIS PREVENTION MEASURES--Meanwhile, Mr Phiri said the Government had taken measures to save cattle from the killer trypanosomiasis disease in the province. Authorities had ordered sufficient drugs to fight the disease. The disease is prevalent in Namwala and Owenbe districts where animals have been mixing with game. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 10 Nov 83 p 1]

CSO: 5400/32

ALL-OUT WAR DECLARED ON COFFEE RUST

Unprecedented Aerial Fumigation

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Oct 83 p 9C

[Article by Fernando Cortes]

[Text] Chinchina--On Saturday, an air operation without precedent in the history of Colombian coffee began: the spraying of 300 plantations where the most intense concentrations of rust have been found to date.

Two helicopters, with Col Oscar Quintana and Capt Diomedes Bernal at the controls, took off from the Fundacion Manuel Mejia soccer field and flew at a height of a mere 3 meters over the trees, making 5-minute runs.

Starting at 0400 hours, 80 men had prepared the mixture of 5.5 kilograms of copper oxychloride for every 1.87 liters of Bayleton to be used on each hectare. Some 21 million pesos were spent on the succeeding 3 days, spraying 15 million coffee trees.

Since the first outbreak of the rust was discovered on Calamar, a property owned by Jaime Restrepo Restrepo, president of the Caldas Coffee Growers Committee, studies were undertaken to begin an effective air crusade.

A total of 15 test flights were made in the Alcala zone, using mixtures of blue methylene as an experimental fungicide. In Cartago (Valle), technical equipment was completely inspected. Thanks to two meteorological stations near the main outbreak, studies determined everything from the slightest temperature change to the size of the drops to be used.

The studies showed that under 79 percent relative humidity, any operation is ineffective because the liquid tends to evaporate very easily. Although the fungicide is not very toxic, technicians recommended that coffee growers cover water tanks and to take shelter during spraying.

The Federation will therefore step up spraying on weekends, when nearly 30,000 harvesters go into town to be paid, following the respective sanitary measures aimed at preventing the spread of the rust, measures including bathing, the washing of hair and burning of clothing in the case of those working exclusively with affected coffee plants.

Along with FEDECAFE [National Federation of Coffee Growers] experts, field workers and coordinators of Operation MAR (Death to Rust), the Ayacucho de Manizales Battalion sent 16 soldiers so that activities would not be hindered in any way. Throughout the zone, there are some 8 police units controlling the departure of unroasted coffee, parchment and cherries, one of the main carriers of the disease.

To date, the Federation of Coffee Growers has officially detected 45,300 trees with clear signs of rust, in a radius including 58 properties in Chinchina, Palestina and Santa Rosa de Cabal, a municipality where, only a few days ago, another outbreak was discovered that is as old as the one on Calamar. The new plantation on the list is Guacas and belongs to coffee grower Dario Gomez.

Jaime Castillo Gallo, head of the committee to evaluate the rust problem, reported that Paraquat has been used to dry up a total of 35,000 trees planted on nearly 4 hectares, which means losses of an estimated 1 million pesos. Growers will begin to produce again 2 years after the respective killing or cutting of the area affected by rust.

The Federation will initially bear the cost involved in the new campaign, amounting to 7,000 pesos per hectare. It is estimated that they will amount to 1 peso per coffee tree sprayed once a year. Coffee growers will have to pay future costs involved in future air operations in the region.

To date, funds from the Andean Group for the fungus had not been used by Colombia. Campaigns on the borders with Ecuador and Venezuela completed in the past decade were financed jointly by the Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia and the ministries of Agriculture of the neighboring countries concerned.

An active prevention campaign is imminent. All kinds of machinery will be used, including loudspeakers in the rural schools of the region to signs and barricades of all kinds. The war against rust is on land and in the air.

From the 1 area initially detected, the number has grown to 58. The possibility of new outbreaks is great. However, it should be made clear that it is not the rust that is taking giant steps throughout the region, threatening coffee trees in Risaralda, Quindio, Antioquia and northern Tolima. Rather, the work of detection is moving much more rapidly.

Dramatic Problem for Nation

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 27 Oct 83 p 16A

[Article by Evelio Giraldo]

[Text] Manizales--The appearance of rust, a disease that has beaten the American record in the long jump, to use Mike Forero's words, has caused a controversy at different levels because of the focus given by the National Federation of Coffee Growers to the control and solution of the problem, considered to be one of the most urgent now facing the country.

For some, the Federation has faced the problem with speed and decisiveness, while for others, such as former minister and coffee official Fernando Londono, the powerful organization "initially groped around with insignificant or useless methods that were immediately rectified."

But for Jorge Luis Franco, secretary of the Departmental Coffee Growers Committee, the plan to control the terrible fungus has moved ahead with effectiveness, vigor and speed, resulting in proper timely technical attention for coffee plantations attacked by the disease.

Mobilization of Resources

In statements made to this daily and in relationship to complaints made by certain coffee growers because of the focus given by the Federation to the control program, the official said that "all possible human and technical resources have been mobilized to face the challenge confronting the coffee economy in the form of this disease."

He said that in developing this offensive against the terrible plague, experts from the Federation used copper oxychloride and Triamideton to spray trees, making 157 helicopter flights over 622 hectares on Saturday and Sunday. The flights took 27.2 hours and the activity resumed yesterday, Monday.

He said that on Sunday afternoon, it was impossible to spray because of the relative humidity, which was 70 percent, preventing effective results.

"But we have in no way neglected the problem and we are making every possible effort to keep it under control, utilizing all resources available to us," the official frankly stated, repeating that the position of the Federation and of the Committee is receptive and one of heeding any person wishing to express concerns, complaints or accusations.

"We are working hard on our campaign against the rust," the official from the Caldas Coffee Growers Committee concluded.

Former minister Fernando Londono Londono made the following statements on the appearance of rust in Caldas:

"Concerning the terrible fungus disease rust, Mike Forero Nougues recently said that it has beaten the American long jump record, going from Brazil to Nicaragua and from there to our country.

"It could be added that it also beat the world sharp shooter's record, for fired from Central America, it made a sensation in the Manuel Mejia Foundation at the coffee experimentation center, where they had been preparing to fight it for 14 years.

"The first reactions of Federation officials were not effective, for they groped around with insignificant or useless measures that were subsequently rectified. Nor were they correct that the cost of the fight against rust would be borne entirely by coffee growers, later adding that rust can be cured but

not prevented by action anticipating its outbreak and damage. Now however, they are spraying by helicopter at great cost on the modern neocoffee growing plantations in the municipalities of Chinchina and neighboring areas, without knowing what might happen on the very rugged, unprotected lands, which make up the majority and are at the greatest risk because of the poor means of their owners. They also suffer the most because of the notorious scarcity of water and elements indispensable to the new phase of our deteriorating coffee crops. In order not to be too lengthy in my remarks, I would like to say that coffee growing had become economically impracticable even before the rust and is now totally impossible because of the new requirements. The country and national fund that have benefited from this rich resource of a coffee crop taxed beyond what the law would allow and out of all proportion must know what lies ahead, the prospect of Colombian society if there is a drastic coffee shortage that will not only impoverish the country, but hurt the social order of the Andean departments."

Subsidy

For coffee grower Carlos Alberto Sanchez, one of the owners of properties affected by rust, the activities engaged in by the National Federation of Coffee Growers to prevent and fight the disease have been prompt and effective.

However, he said that the government should make an immediate adjustment in domestic coffee prices so that coffee growers may adequately meet the challenge posed by the rust.

"If it cannot adjust domestic prices, then there should be a subsidy. Not all growers have land fit for air spraying, a highly risky activity in rugged and potentially dangerous areas," the grower said.

He said that land with such difficult conditions should be sprayed with a sprayer which costs 60,000 pesos (a unit) on the market, plus chemicals required for the preventive effort.

Just Prices

Coffee grower Javier Rios Ramirez believes that in order for the farmer to meet this new situation, the National Government should adjust domestic coffee prices, especially now that the investment and spending budget will have to include the acquisition of equipment and chemicals for carrying out measures connected with plant hygiene in order to prevent rust.

However, he said that both the Federation and the Caldas Coffee Growers Committee had worked speedily to attack the disease.

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CSO: 5400/2014

MICRO-ORGANISM ATTACKING JOHORE PINEAPPLES

Penang THE STAR in English 6 Nov 83 p 6

[Text]

JOHORE BARU, Sat. — Micro-organisms are eating into the pineapples industry.

They attack pineapples, especially of the Mas Merah variety, during the flowering stage.

Such devastation of the fruit, known as "leathery pockets," cannot be noticed on the exterior of the pineapple. The disease comes to light only when the fruits are sent to pineapple canners for processing.

The Malaysian Agricultural and Research Institute (Mardi) had yet to come up with a chemical that is economical for farmers to prevent the disease.

This disease is not the only factor which has hit the farmers badly.

The rising costs of shipping, transport and living, and the high rejection rate of crops are some of the other factors discouraging farmers from growing pineapples.

There used to be about 33,000 smallholders including their families in Johore who were involved in the industry, but now only about 3,000 pineapple holdings remain.

The switch to other crops is still taking place because farmers have given up hope of earning a livelihood in the industry.

The only hope, according to surviving pineapple growers, is Mardi. Mardi has developed a new hybrid which it claimed is capable of giving a 27 per cent recovery rate compared with

17 per cent recovery by present-day pineapple strains.

The new hybrid is being multiplied for distribution to pineapple growers in the States.

NCDP COMPLETES TESTS ON COCONUT TREE PEST CONTROL

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Asukile Kyando]

[Text]

THE National Coconut Development Programme (NCDP) has completed tests began four years ago on ways to control a notorious pest responsible for destruction of coconut trees along the Tanzania coastal area, known as *rhinoceros beetle*.

An official of the Programme, Ndugu S.A. Mogaeka, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the tests carried out at the NCDP's Pest Control Unit at Mlingano Tanga, indentified a virus called *Baculovirus* as the beetle killer.

Ndugu Mogaeka, who is the NCDP's Agricultural Economist, said during the laboratory tests the virus was introduced where the beetles were being bred and that most of the beetles were killed.

He said the Mlingano unit had now bred enough quantities of the virus ready for use any time.

The official said NCDP would soon send an application to the Ministry of Agriculture for the release of the virus at a place to be selected as part of the field tests.

"We would now like to move from the laboratory tests to field tests", Ndugu Mogaeka said.

He said the NCDP recommended Mafia as a preferable place for field tests because, being an island, it would not be possible for intrusion of other beetles from outside the area during the testing period.

Ndugu Mogaeka said after the field tests the Ministry would decide whether to begin apply it countrywide or not.

CSO: 5400/41

REPORT NOTES REASONS FOR SPREAD OF BANANA WEEVILS, WORMS

Dar es Salaam SUNDAY NEWS in English 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Musa Lupatu]

[Text] POOR soil fertility in Kagera Region as well as high rainfall and population pressure are said to be the major reasons that led to the spread of banana weevils and nematode worms which have devastated large crop of bananas.

According to a report on a project for banana pest control and improvement in Tanzania, an estimated 114,000 to 180,000 hectares under banana—half the area under the crop in the region—have been seriously affected over the few years with field loss of 30 per cent.

The report prepared for the Government and financed by the European Economic Community (EEC) points out that the problem is still persisting although the government has since 1975/76 attempted to educate farmers on the crop husbandry and has provided funds for research and supply of pesticides.

The report, a copy of which has been made available to Sunday News, was prepared by Mr. P. T. Walker and M. J. Hatttlethwaite of the Tropical Development and Research Institute of Parasitology.

Following intensified destruction by the nematodes and weevils, the Government has been advised to include farming systems research in its improvement programme of the crop.

According to the report, although research is concentrating on direct improvement of the crop, it should cover all components of farming systems such as legumes and cereals, the livestock and pasture because they are part of it.

The government should continue research on Carbofuran chemical used for the control of nematodes and weevils to determine rate and time of application among others, the report said.

"Research should concentrate on testing different application rates of carbofuran with the aim of reducing the amount used even further," the report notes adding that since timing of application can be critical it should be studied in relation to other factors such as rainfall.

Carbofuran whose trade name is Furahan, was recommended in 1975 following reports that dielirin which was used before it was killing the banana plants instead. The former is used in nematode-weevil infested areas, but prohibitive prices both to the Government and peasants are said to check wide use.

The experts recommend in the report, testing of other available non tonic chemicals. Noting that yields in the presence of pest attack depend greatly on the health and vigour of the plant, the experts also recommend the use of farmyard manure for best response.

The report points out, however, that there is not enough of farmyard manure at present apparently because of poor cattle management system. Coffee husks and green compost which are also in use are recommended but with a caution that there should be soil analysis because it has been revealed most of the affected areas lack phosphorus and other minerals in the soil.

Other measures recommended in the report include testing of planting materials, a detailed pest survey of the region and a new outlook by peasants with regard to yield and animal management.

Because of the twin problem--nematodes and weevils--the report notes that peasants were now substituting banana with other locally grown and less preferred staples, which has resulted in partial diversion of the peasant's efforts towards the production of bananas and away from cash crops, especially coffee.

CSO: 5400/41

NATION THREATENED BY GRAIN BORER INVASION FROM TANZANIA

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

Meanwhile, Zambia is threatened by an invasion of the horn grain borer from Tanzania in the next few years unless stringent measures are taken to repulse the pest.

This warning is contained in an article in the latest edition of the *International Agricultural Development* magazine. The report was compiled by Peter Golob and published in London.

Golob, who works for the Tropical Development and Research Institute in Britain says in his report that climatic conditions in countries neighbouring Tanzania where the borer was discovered in 1981 could easily keep the pest.

The insect can survive or develop on maize if it crossed the border into Zambia, Malawi and Kenya.

"Without the most rigorous inspection and quarantine procedures at the borders, it is most likely that the beetle will spread into neighbouring

countries in the next few years," Golob warns.

He doubts that even with such control measures, Tanzania alone was unlikely to contain the beetle within her borders.

Since East African countries had become net importers of maize in recent years, the general food supply situation was already severe and it must not be exacerbated by another problem.

It had been estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) mission to Tanzania that the potential losses of maize in that country caused by the borer could be more than half-a-million tonnes each year, which would amount to K86 million loss.

Another problem in this "war" against the beetle was related to the insecticide used. This required farmers to be trained in correct method of its application.

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